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light, so sternly unfriendly to the crumbling "Stones of Venice," into gentle moonlit night; the strange and beautiful metamorphosis by which the sturdy Latin has become the liquid Italian; the unquestioning tyranny of the old Doges succeeded by the mild reign of a constitutional king; the mighty military prowess of ancient Venice in Eastern tradition has changed to these "piping times" of peace. The whole day with its evening close was like an anthem in whose measures sublime or sweet, the years were singing their historic song.

My first thought was, "Oh, that I could take this picture out of its setting and transfer it to America for the delectation of my countrymen!" But I reflected, it will not bear it. These men could not so sing their songs in a strange land. Our rivers that wash cities are too swift. Our lakes too subject to rough winds; our people are too busy. Only in the indolent air of Italy and on the watery streets of Venice, with gliding gondolas and singing boatmen; only underneath the sky of Italy and among a restful, pleasure-loving people, can one enjoy such an evening. I may add that no contrast could well be more striking than the singers and their song. Coarse-featured, bronzed faces, rough hands and working dresses were revealed when the lights flashed too fully on the musical gondoliers. Nothing in Venice will bear too close and critical examination. It is a good place in which to stop thinking and enjoy.

R. B. H.

#### A GOLD MEDAL AWARDED TO A PEACE SOCIETY.

The Paris Universal Exhibition have done well to recognize the labors of Mr. Hodgson Pratt and his co-laborers, who did so much to make the World's Peace Congress a success. The Jury of Social Economy presented the International Arbitration and Peace Association of London a gold medal, as we learn from *Concord*, which adds these words from M. Frederic Passy, whose defeat for the Chamber of Deputies at the recent election we deeply regret for the sake of France. His retirement can be but temporary.

"I must avail myself of this opportunity to say how grand a scene presented itself on the occasion of the distribution of awards last Sunday. It was, indeed, a touching sight when those representatives of all nations came, in a great spirit of peace and friendship, to salute the President of the French Republic, who, whenever he speaks, appeals to the principles of concord and fraternity. . . . Assuredly the impressions produced on this occasion must have been favorable to our cause."

#### LOCAL ORGANIZATION.

Every State, every county, and every town in the county should, if possible, organize an Arbitration League which appeals to the nobler, higher nature of every philanthropist, statesman, and true Christian in the land.

Holding for a time, as I did, a Consular position in Asiatic Turkey, during Gen. Grant's administration, and twice circumnavigating the globe since, meeting and conversing with kings, princes, viceroys, rajahs, and several military chieftains upon the loss of life, the ruthless desolation, and appalling evils of war as compared with the sweet, heavenly fruitage that must necessarily flow

from concession, conference, arbitration, and universal peace, I most positively affirm that the world—the civilized and the enlightened—is ripe and ready for peace, thrice ready for the settlement of international difficulties by an international arbitration tribunal.

J. M. PEEBLES, M. D.

Hammonton, N. J.

—*Messenger of Peace.*

#### THE MARITIME CONGRESS.

The meeting of the Maritime Conference at Washington on Wednesday, Oct. 16th, is an event the importance of which has been overshadowed by the Conference of American States and the entertainment of their delegates, but is really of great public interest. Great Britain at first declined to be represented, but finally accepted the invitation of our Government on condition that some specified subjects should be withdrawn from consideration. The Conference is asked to consider, among other things, the establishment of a permanent international maritime commission, a uniform system of buoys, the marking or removal of dangerous wrecks, uniform night signals for communicating information, signals and other means of indicating the directions in which vessels are moving, inspection of vessels, precautions against overloading, etc. The present mania for racing over the ocean, sacrificing everything to speed, makes it more needful that an efficient marine police be maintained, and strict guarantees for the safety of vessel and passengers secured. The United States are no longer a great maritime power, as they once were and may be again, so that it is not unsuitable for our Government to lead in this conference of maritime States.—*The Watchman.*

#### BOYS' BRIGADES IN SCOTLAND.

To speak plainly, there are few more revolting or pernicious institutions than Boys' Brigades. Revolting, because it represents an hypocrisy which, whether conscious or not, is one of the most disgusting of all present social phenomena. And for the ill effects of it, one has only to read the speech which the major-general delivered to the boys. If they enlisted as soldiers, he told them, they would see the world at their country's expense. Then followed an appeal to Napoleon—Napoleon the Treacherous, as he has been called by one civilized enough to discern and dislike murder in the wholesale. Here is goodly matter to be set forth under the zeal and sanction of the Christian Church! The truth is, that by the Boys' Brigade our youth are being imbued with the principles of political iniquity and the spirit of social retrogression. There are many strange gospels abroad, but this gospel according to Sergeant Kite is assuredly as hateful as any that the most barbarous ecclesiasticism has preached.—*The Scottish Leader.*

—The "World's Arbitration League" has been reorganized at Washington, D. C., with Dr. R. McMurdy as Corresponding Secretary, John B. Wood, of Philadelphia, Recording Secretary, Mrs. E. B. Grannis, of New York, Treasurer. A good Advisory Committee among which are Drs. Sutherland and Newman, of Washington, was chosen. Hon. D. D. Field, of New York, was elected President.